



**CITY OF ANNISTON MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**CITY OF ANNISTON ANNOUNCES MAJOR  
DOWNTOWN RETAIL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

(ANNISTON, AL) – City of Anniston officials announced today a new economic development project in its downtown district. The project will involve development of a large retail center by Harbert Realty Services in the city block bounded by Quintard and Wilmer Avenues to the east and west, and 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Streets to the south and north.

Today's announcement is the culmination of months of hard work by several organizations, according to Anniston Mayor Jack Draper. "This is wonderful news for the City of Anniston, and reflects a great partnership among Harbert Realty, Alabama Power Company, Wells Fargo, and the City of Anniston," said Draper. "Many people have been working behind the scenes to bring this project to completion over the past year, and today's announcement demonstrates what a group of committed partners can do in the interest of economic development. This development will bring more jobs to the City and will improve quality of life for all of our Anniston residents and visitors."

The new retail development will be located adjacent to the Anniston-Calhoun County Central Library and will eventually involve leasing of retail space by several regionally and nationally recognized restaurant chains and retail stores. Harbert Realty, a full service real estate and development firm in Birmingham, has worked closely with Alabama Power and the City of Anniston to bring this project to reality.

Alabama Power, in turn, has worked closely with Wells Fargo on the purchase of a nearby drive-thru service center on East 10<sup>th</sup> Street. The reopened service center will continue amenities offered by Alabama Power's current customer service center on Quintard Avenue that will be vacated with the construction of the Harbert project.

"The development of downtown retail businesses is a priority for the City of Anniston and we are fully supportive of their efforts. By selling our drive-thru property, located directly on Quintard Avenue, the city is able to provide potential retailers with a prime location for setting

up shop. We know that partnerships like this are essential to bringing more jobs and revenue to this community,” said Julia Segars, Alabama Power Company’s Eastern Division vice president. “The purchase and renovation of our new drive-thru location will allow us to continue to provide the convenient service our customers expect, while also adding new life to an empty building.”

As part of the partnership, the City Council will discuss and vote on an incentive package for the retail development and will also consider vacating an alleyway between Quintard and Wilmer Avenues during upcoming Council meetings. City officials will also consult with Alabama Department of Transportation officials to ensure that appropriate roadway concerns are addressed prior to commencement of construction.

Harbert is under contract with the property and is currently working through a due diligence period in which it will finalize leases with tenants of the new retail development. According to James Proctor, Harbert Realty Services vice president of Retail Development, patrons can expect further good news about the project soon. “We anticipate a public announcement of well-known restaurants and other retailers shortly, and are convinced this entire development project will bring significant value to the Anniston community,” said Proctor. As part of the final plan, Harbert is expected to close on the property in early 2017 and the development is currently slated to be completed in November 2017.

Kent Davis, Anniston’s city manager and director of Economic Development, urged Anniston stakeholders to pay attention to future announcements involving this project and others. “Stand by for more good news,” said Davis. “In addition to Harbert’s upcoming announcements of retailers that will locate in the new development, this is just one of several projects we are working on in the downtown area. We are fully committed to a vibrant, growing downtown Anniston, and this positive news is just one step in a long-term goal of bringing new business to the area.”

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For more information, or to arrange media coverage of this development, please contact Anniston’s City Manager and Director of Economic Development and External Affairs, Mr. Kent Davis, at (256) 231-7705. A representative of Harbert Realty Services will attend the Anniston City Council work session at 6:00 p.m. on December 19, 2016 to further discuss this project. Members of the news media are welcome to attend that work session, which will take place in the conference room at Anniston City Hall.

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